# PLACER COUNTY 2003 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM



**Prepared by the County Executive Office** 

Approved by the Board of Supervisors December 3, 2002

# PLACER COUNTY 2003 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM

# Part One General Principles

The primary goal of the County's elected representatives and its employees is to serve and support the social, economic, health, safety and well-being of its citizens. To this end, in 2003, the Placer County Board of Supervisors supports the following general principles. County staff, including the County's legislative advocates, will apply these general principles to evaluate legislation and other proposals, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

- 1. Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and growth, and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues.
- **2.** Support legislation to assure Placer County's authority to govern itself and oppose legislation that will hinder or limit the County's self-rule authority.
- **3.** Support efforts, including administrative changes, to implement a state/local fiscal reform plan to insure revenues for the delivery of local programs and services, and to increase programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
- **4.** Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation, incorporation and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its constituents.
- **5.** Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies.
- **6.** Support increased state and federal appropriations for County mandated programs, including capital acquisition costs.
- **7.** Oppose state or federal mandates, and the transfer of state or federal programs, to the County unless adequate on-going revenues are provided.
- **8.** Continue to encourage local agencies and governments to cooperate for the betterment of the community and encourage, and expand, voluntary regional solutions to regional problems.
- **9.** Seek cooperation with state and federal governments on regulatory and administrative issues affecting the County, including those related to health care, public safety, the environment and transportation, to ensure the protection and well-being of its citizens.
- **10.** Encourage and seek legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County.

# PLACER COUNTY 2003 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM Part Two State Proposals

## **Agricultural Commissioner**

# **Proposal: Continuation of Pesticide and Pest Control Programs**

Continuation of fees for the Agricultural Commissioner's work in pesticide regulatory activities is a continuing major legislative effort and needs to be supported.

**Problem:** Even though the Legislature passed a 5-year extension of the pesticide mill fee there are other fees pending for the maintenance of specific pest programs, such as the Red Imported Fire Ant.

### Assessor

**Proposal: Continue to Oppose Efforts to Allow Trial De Novo in Assessment Appeals** In 2001, Placer County joined County Assessors in opposing legislation that would create the opportunity for assessment appeals to be reheard in their entirety in Superior Court. Trial de novo is not presently allowed for property assessment disputes. The local Assessment Appeals Board resolves valuation disputes. It is expected that an attempt will be made to introduce a new bill in 2003.

**Problem:** Previously proposed legislation would allow a Trial Court reviewing the record of a County Assessment Appeals Board to also consider evidence not on the administrative record. This trial de novo procedure would be extremely costly to counties and the filer, and burdensome to Superior Court caseloads, and cause extensive time delays to resolve assessment issues.

# **County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar**

**Proposal: Electronic Recording** 

Support legislation that allows for the electronic filing of documents.

**Problem:** The counties of Orange and San Bernardino are currently authorized to accept such filings. However, current law does not authorize Placer County to accept the electronic submission of an original, recordable document.

# **County Counsel**

# **Proposal: Revise State Board of Equalization Public Meeting Practices**

Support legislation requiring the State Board of Equalization (BOE) to publicly disclose items set for discussion and decision in such detail as to allow participation, and to provide reasonable deadlines for written input. Provide standing for counties and County Assessors at the BOE and in related legal proceedings.

**Problem:** The current practices of the State BOE include agenda listings and public notice requirements that do not provide either enough information or enough time for interested parties, such as counties, to know when to respond – or because of unreasonable response periods. The BOE has denied standing to counties and County Assessors in its proceedings.

# **County Counsel (con't)**

**Proposal: Revise Education Code Related to School District Boundary Changes**Support legislation to substitute the County Board of Education for the County Board of Supervisors as authorizing body.

**Problem:** The current Education Code still requires the Board of Supervisors to officially "...create, change or terminate school districts...". This authority more properly belongs with the County Board of Education.

### **County Executive Office**

# **Proposal: Hydroelectric and Energy Projects**

Support legislation to protect Placer County's property tax, land use and water interests as PG&E restructures in the wake of deregulation and bankruptcy.

**Problem:** PG&E has proposed a massive restructuring of its assets and liabilities as part of its bankruptcy proceedings. Placer County has an interest in the outcome since the future of PG&E's land holdings, electricity production contracts and actual liabilities could impact the County.

#### **Proposal: Local Disaster and Emergency Response Funds**

Support continued state assistance to counties for emergency preparedness and response in light of September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States. Counties are the center of preparedness activities for emergencies in California. Transition the current funding sources from a grant to an allocation to ensure an ongoing funding stream for counties. Also, expand the use of the funds to allow for the expansion of facilities and other infrastructure needs.

**Problem:** The County is experiencing an increase in emergency response expenditures, and facing an immediate need to increase its level of preparedness and capability to respond to terrorist threats facing local governments in the wake of September 11, 2001. Emergency preparedness and response training; infrastructure and equipment will be required over the next several years to ensure optimal protection of the County and its residents. The state needs to assist in this front line emergency preparedness planning and response at the county level.

#### **Proposal: Community Development/Rural Housing Assistance**

Seek to amend state statutes related to allocation of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and rural housing programs to reflect the unique characteristics in Placer County. Initiate action with relevant state agencies, as well the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), to ease restrictions that hinder efforts to meet the demands for employee housing and affordable housing goals, in general.

**Problem:** Various state and federal statutes, and implementation policies, inhibit the ability of Placer County to maximize the use of monies designated to expand affordable housing in rural areas due to the unique circumstances that exist in Lake Tahoe, by virtue of it being a bi-state, multi-jurisdictional resort area. These statutes and policies relative to implementation of CDBG, Rural Housing monies, as well as application of state prevailing wage laws and TRPA policies create obstacles to providing employee and other affordable housing in Placer County, particularly in the Tahoe area.

# **County Executive Office (con't)**

# **Proposal: Workers' Compensation Reform**

Support Workers' Compensation Reform legislation that:

- 1) Requires a pre-injury wage to be eligible for temporary disability under the State Workers' Compensation labor code;
- 2) Expands the current Workers' Compensation fee schedule to include all pharmaceuticals that are prescribed as a result of a work related injury;
- 3) Requires injured workers who are receiving future medical benefits to attend mandatory Qualified Medical Exams (QME) to determine if the treatment is palliative (i.e. fixed, not improving) or curative.

**Problem:** As a result of new legislation, that goes into effect on January 1, 2003, inmates that are on work release, work furlough, minimum security and trustees as well as volunteers, jurors, and community service workers who are not paid by the County and did not have paid employment prior to an injury will now be entitled to the minimum temporary disability rate of \$126.00 per week. Additionally, the current labor code requires employers to pay 100% of all medical expenses associated with a work-related injury. The only offset to employers is the State mandated fee schedule. Currently, not all prescriptions are subject to fee schedule reductions. Lastly, injured workers who have legally agreed to permanent disability benefits and are also entitled to future medical treatment continue to treat even when the treatment is no longer improving their condition. This continued treatment increases medical costs when the injured worker recognizes no improvement.

# **Facilities**

### Proposal: Hazardous Materials Clean Up at Dewitt

Seek funding from the State, as a "members request", for hazardous materials clean up of the DeWitt Center. This property is owned by the County and has served as a critical resource for County agencies for many years. The property's redevelopment potential to house government, commercial, and light industrial activity is promising. Funding will be used to abate and or remediate, in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements, the hazardous materials currently on site.

**Problem:** The DeWitt Center was constructed in 1943 as a military hospital during World War II. Construction practices at that time included the use of materials such as asbestos and lead paint, and utilized underground tanks for heating and fuel oil. However, extensive renovation activity, including hazardous material cleanup of asbestos and lead paint, would be required in order to maintain the property and before successful redevelopment could be undertaken.

### **Proposal: Funding for an Applegate Sewer System**

Seek funding assistance from the State, as a "member's request", to support the construction of a community leach field for wastewater disposal for the community of Applegate to protect the public's health and comply with regulatory requirements.

**Problem:** The Applegate Sewer System (28 customers) was constructed in the early 1970's to replace private leach fields that were destroyed when the State of California widened Interstate 80. The destruction of these individual leach fields was the reason that a public sewer system was built in Applegate. Today, the system cannot meet the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) current, stringent standards.

# **Facilities** (con't)

#### **Proposal: Purchase of Property for State Subvented Programs**

Amend the appropriate statutes to allow state funds to be encumbered and used for the purchase of real property for state subvented programs (i.e. health care programs).

**Problem:** Current law does not allow the use of subvention funds for the purchase or lease-purchase of real property, even when such alternatives result in a reduced cost to taxpayers.

#### Proposal: Design/Build Concept for County Buildings

Support legislation to add Placer County as a county eligible to use the design/build concept for county buildings.

**Problem:** Several counties now have the authority to use the design/build concept. This authority should be extended to Placer County to provide for potential cost savings and reduced time for county construction projects.

#### **Proposal: Collection of Fees**

Amend current statutes to allow the collection of delinquent garbage and utility bills on the property tax statements.

**Problem:** A few years ago, the Second District Court of Appeals issued an opinion finding an ordinance authorizing liens for delinquent utility bills to be unconstitutional. While liens may not be possible, a statute could authorize the collection of current and delinquent charges as part of the property tax bill.

### **Health & Human Services**

Welfare Services' program staff.

#### **Proposal: Increased Funding for Domestic Violence Programs**

Support increased funding for domestic violence programs and the establishment, by the Legislature and Governor, of a Domestic Violence Task Force. The Task Force would work in conjunction with state domestic violence associations to review and recommend the level of funding associated with the legislative objectives.

**Problem:** Domestic violence programs are an integral part of County mental health and social service systems. These programs provide a variety of services that include emergency shelters for women and their children, crisis counseling, on-going counseling, advocacy, legal assistance, supervised visitation services and other family support functions. The State Department of Health Services and the State Office of Criminal Justice Planning, through competitive grant processes, fund the domestic violence programs in California. Local programs also receive a portion of the fees associated with marriage licenses, apply to numerous other foundations and government agencies for available grants, and sponsor significant fund raising events. Overall, funding for theses programs are both inadequate and unstable.

#### **Proposal: Workload Relief Funding for Child Welfare Services**

Request that the Legislature and Governor fund the Child Welfare Services system in accordance with the findings of the Senate Bill 2030 Workload Study. The increased funding should remain as flexible as possible in order to meet the wide range of needs experienced by various counties. **Problem:** The Child Welfare Services system continues to be under funded. This reduction in funding further exacerbates the problem of high caseloads and workloads of County Child

# Health & Human Services (con't)

# **Proposal: Professional Health Workforce Development**

Add California certified Public Health Nurses, and other comparable health professionals, to the list of providers eligible for partial loan repayment, designate county health departments as health professional shortage areas (HPSA) and eliminate the practice site match for local health departments. As a result, Public Health Nurses, and other health professionals, obligating themselves to practice in local health departments for two years would be eligible for the loan repayment program.

**Problem:** Due to the national health professional shortage, it is very difficult to recruit and retain California certified Public Health Nurses, and other health professionals, in county/city health departments.

#### Proposal: Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter

Seek funding from the State, as a "member's request," for a Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter.

**Problem:** A Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter is needed in the County for children who are removed from their homes for abuse or neglect. Funding is needed for development of a health center/shelter that provides, in addition to emergency shelter care, on-site medical facilities to conduct primary health screenings and examinations for the emergency shelter population as well as selected minor cases that require more sensitive handling. Additionally, a multi-disciplinary interview center and a supervised visitation/parent education center are envisioned.

#### **Proposal: Medi-Cal Reform**

Support Medi-Cal Reform as part of a statewide effort. Reform should include the following strategies:

- a. Increasing reimbursement rates for primary care and dental care providers;
- b. Expansion and simplification of Healthy Families coverage;
- c. Increased coverage for mental health and substance abuse Medi-Cal benefits;
- d. Support for California's request for Targeted Case Management coverage for home visitation by Family Resource Centers and Public Health Nurses.

**Problem:** There are over 50 sub-programs administered within Medi-Cal; regulations are complicated and prohibitive. Reimbursement rates to providers are inadequate, which serve as disincentives to participation in the program. The Medi-Cal benefits for mental health and substance abuse are also extremely inadequate.

#### Proposal: Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service Project

Develop and execute a Placer County/State Department of Mental Health Services (only) contract to manage a Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service Project that would identify and assume continued adequate funding to maintain the County's existing Fee-for-Service Managed Care Network. **Problem:** Continued adequate funding is in jeopardy for managing the eligible Medi-Cal population of patients currently enrolled in the County's Fee-for-Service Managed Care Network.

# Health & Human Services (con't)

## Proposal: Increased Mental Health and Substance Abuse Funding

Support increased funding for both mental health and substance abuse populations. Strategies should be explored for increasing available on-going funding

**Problem:** Realignment and other funding sources have not kept pace with the increase in costs or the increased demand due to growth.

### Proposal: Clarify the County's Responsibility for "Murphy Conservatees"

Propose legislation to clarify the distinction between developmentally disabled and the mentally ill.

**Problem:** Presently, the County is responsible for the care of the mentally ill and the State is responsible for the developmentally disabled. However, when one of these persons commits a crime, the court makes no distinction between the two. Therefore, the County often becomes liable for those who are actually developmentally disabled, not mentally ill.

#### Proposal: Expansion of the County's Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)

Modify existing law to allow a PHF to have more than 16 beds to accommodate the increased demand for this service in the county.

**Problem:** The PHF is allowed to bill Medi-Cal. The capacity of the County's 16-bed PHF is not sufficient. However, an expanded program requires separate certification and does not address an economy of scale. Private hospital beds are currently required to treat the overflow of those who are a danger to themselves, a danger to others, or gravely disabled.

#### **Proposal: Increase Foster Care Replacement Rates to Include Outpatient Services**

Include outpatient services costs in the Rate Classification Level (RCL) amount set by the State. **Problem:** Foster Care placement costs are shared (50%-Federal; 35%-State and 15%-County). Rates are set by the State and include placement (room/board) only. Statewide, outpatient services have become a mandatory component of group home placements. These costs should be included in the RCL amount.

### Personnel

#### **Proposal: Contracting Agency Contribution Requirements**

Allow public agencies to maintain local control to contract with their bargaining groups for their employees, and their retirees, premium contribution formulas.

**Problem:** Current law limits public agencies who contract with CalPERS for health insurance under the Public Employees Medical Care and Hospital Act (PEMCHA) to follow a limited number of options to pay for the retiree premium contribution. Depending upon the option chosen to pay for the retiree insurance, this can cause an economic hardship to the agency providing benefits and/or create a two-tier system for employee/retiree benefits. Current law limits the options to a local agency

# **Planning**

# Proposal: Funding and Support to Preserve and Expand Agricultural Lands and Open Space, Restore Wetlands and further Watershed Protection Efforts

Support legislation that advances the objectives of the *Placer Legacy* program to protect open space in the County and to sustain agriculture as a key industry.

**Problem:** The pressures of urban development have an effect on the amount of land dedicated to open space and agriculture. With an increase in urbanization, more agricultural lands will be lost resulting in a decrease in biological diversity, agricultural production, scenic landscapes, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the general open character of the county's landscape. To counterbalance these impacts, the *Placer Legacy* program was established as a proactive, long range, comprehensive strategy for protecting open space and agricultural lands in the County in order to enhance the quality of life and sustain agriculture as a key industry.

# Public Safety

## **Proposal: Housing and Treating Mentally Ill Offenders**

Support legislation that provides increased funding to house and treat mentally ill offenders, both adults and juveniles.

**Problem:** Persons with mental illness are impacting the criminal justice system. Services are needed for this forensic population so that jail and prison populations can be reduced. Current resources are expiring (Mentally Ill Offender Grant) or not adequate to house and treat mentally ill offenders.

# **Proposal: Continued Funding of COPS Program and Juvenile Justice Funds/Increased Public Safety Funding**

Support the continued funding of the current COPS program and juvenile justice funds. Also, support continued Sheriff's funding and any other efforts to increase public safety funding. **Problem:** The 2002 legislative session included a continuation of both the COPS program and the juvenile justice program. The 2002-2003 State budget also continued to include \$500,000 to the Placer County Sheriff's Department for the ongoing Rural and Small County Law Enforcement grant. The ongoing budget shortfall at the state level may endanger the continuation of the rural sheriff's \$500,000 funding level.

## **Public Works**

#### **Proposal: Public Contracting Project Cost Thresholds**

Modify the current cost thresholds in the California Public Contract Code to increase the cost limits on work that may be performed by county work crews.

**Problem:** The current cost threshold for work, which may be undertaken by county crews, is \$25,000. This limit has not been increased in more than 35 years. An increase in this limit, even by an annual amount equivalent to a cost-of-living increase, would provide savings for the County in completing minor projects.

# **Treasurer-Tax Collector**

# Proposal: Authority to Remove Special Assessments from the Tax Roll

Support legislation that would allow the Auditor, upon direction from the Tax Collector, to remove from the tax roll, defaulted parcels with special assessments subject to judicial foreclosure.

**Problem:** Parcels having substantial special assessments that are not removed from the tax roll for accelerated judicial foreclosure severely impact the ability to sell these parcels at an amount to cover all defaulted taxes. Therefore, local agencies entitled to a share of the ad valorum tax amount receive pro-rata reduced amounts based on the tax loss precipitated by the burdensome amount of special taxes added to the roll by other agencies. Thus, local agencies incur adverse financial impacts and become the financial victims of other agencies who do not remove their special taxes and pursue judicial foreclosure. Defaulted special assessments subject to judicial foreclosure makes the tax defaulted sale of these properties an onerous process.

# Placer County 2003 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY PLATFORM Part Three Federal Proposals

# Proposal: Additional Funding for a Regional Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Facility

**Problem:** Currently, seven wastewater agencies serve Placer County. These agencies indicate that the population they serve will increase substantially over the next 15 years. Each existing facility faces: 1) Major expansion needs; 2) Increasing stringent federal pollutant permit conditions; and 3) Cost constraints (both capital and operation & maintenance). The regional design will accommodate projected growth well into the future and provide significant environmental benefits to receiving waters throughout the region, including the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

# Proposal: Funding and Support to Preserve and Expand Agricultural Lands and Open Space, Restore Wetlands and further Watershed Protection Efforts

**Problem:** The pressures of urban development have an effect on the amount of land dedicated to open space and agriculture production. With an increase in urbanization, more open space and agricultural land will be lost resulting in a decrease in biological diversity, agricultural production, scenic landscapes, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the general open character of the county's landscape. To counterbalance these impacts, the *Placer Legacy* program was established as a proactive, long range, comprehensive strategy for protecting open space and agricultural lands in the County. Federal assistance would be used to continue development of a data base of resource information including field surveys, integration of field data and remote sensing data into a computer-based geographic information system (GIS) to be used by federal, state, and local entities. Federal assistance would also be used to expand public outreach and education; complete land acquisitions and easements from willing sellers; and develop a clearinghouse of local land use and natural resources data for use by a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders.

# Proposal: Continued Funding for Law Enforcement Technology and Telecommunication Needs

**Problem:** Communications equipment used by law enforcement and other public safety officials in the County are outdated and not as effective as needed. Assistance is needed to upgrade and improve countywide and regional computer and radio networks, including interface and compatibility with mobile data units, to expand areas of coverage, and to relocate the radio room from a World War II era unreinforced masonry structure to a secure, reinforced building. Increased interoperability and interconnectivity is becoming increasingly critical for Law Enforcement as a tool to meet the public safety needs of the County.

#### Proposal: Continued Funding for a Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter

**Problem:** A Children's Health Center/Emergency Shelter is needed in the County for children who are removed from their homes for abuse or neglect. It would also include a mental health/behavioral health housing area. Funding is needed to develop and build a health center/shelter that provides, in addition to emergency shelter care, on-site medical facilities to conduct primary health screenings and examinations for the emergency shelter population as well as selected minor cases that require more sensitive handling. Additionally, a multi-disciplinary interview center and a supervised visitation/parent education center are envisioned.

# Proposal: Continue to Advocate for Maximum Flood Protection for County Residents and the Region without Affecting Existing Water Supply Levels

**Problem:** Flooding from the American River is a constant threat to the 400,000 residents living in the flood plain region. Experts believe that the only solution is a coordinated flood abatement initiative that will provide an acceptable standard of flood protection (e.g. 100, 150, 200-year flood protection). A permanent and reliable source of funding for flood protection is also needed.

## **Proposal: Transportation Planning**

**Problem:** The County's exponential growth in recent years makes the need for road funding critical. The I-80 corridor is key to continued mobility for the entire region as well as Placer County. The section from the Sacramento County line to Hwy 65 is growing in congestion, delay and accidents due to increased usage by local, regional and interstate traffic. Caltrans and Sacramento County are currently constructing the Sacramento/Placer I-80 Capacity Enhancement Project to improve highway capacity and traffic flow on I-80 by adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and auxiliary lanes. The project extends to the Placer County line but should be extended further to increase freeway capacity in Placer County. Caltrans strongly supports the project and funding is in place for environmental and design activities. Funding has not yet been secured for construction. It is recommended that this I-80 project be the central focus of the County's bid for Demonstration Funds in conjunction with the Reauthorization of TEA -21.

Two other projects of note are the Walerga Road Bridge over Dry Creek and the Highway 65/Lincoln Bypass. The Walerga Road Bridge is inadequate from a flooding perspective as well as in need of widening for increased traffic volumes. Additional Federal Funds will allow this important project to proceed.

The Hwy 65/Lincoln Bypass project is completing the environmental stage and will be transitioning into design. Most, or all, of the project is funded; however, the County has committed \$80 million in Advance STIP funds to the effort. Due to the regional nature of the facility, additional Federal Funding could be used to buy down Placer County's Advance STIP commitment and allow new projects to proceed in a more timely manner to keep pace with the County's transportation needs.

## Proposal: Funding for the Capitol-to-Capitol Regional Trail System

**Problem:** Working with a myriad of public agencies and citizen groups, Placer County has taken a leadership role in completing and linking a 100-mile long trail from Sacramento to Lake Tahoe, primarily along the North Fork of the American River. From Lake Tahoe, the trail will continue to Carson City, Nevada, creating the Capitol-to-Capitol regional trail system. The trail would serve as a primary recreation amenity for Placer County residents as well as a major tourist attraction. Federal funding would be used for land purchase, trail construction and related measures.

# Proposal: Continued Funding for Homeland Security and Terrorist Threat Preparedness and Response

**Problem:** The County, as first responders, continues to face an immediate need to increase its level of preparedness and capability to respond to the new terrorist threat facing local governments in the wake of September 11, 2001. Placer County has major transportation infrastructure, railroads, and various dams, bridges and lakes that could be at risk. Emergency preparedness and response training; infrastructure and equipment will be required over the next several years to ensure optimal protection of the County and its residents. Federal funding, and flexibility with the funding, will allow for the purchase of equipment, training resources and infrastructure.

#### Proposal: Funding for a Lake Tahoe Bi-State Emergency Management System

**Problem:** The isolation and difficult terrain of the Lake Tahoe region make emergency preparedness and response a challenge under the best of circumstances. The new realities of the post-September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the U.S. would require improved local, state and federal coordination in the preparation for, and response to, emergencies in the Tahoe basin. Current emergency infrastructure and coordination is hampered by the lack of a centralized facility shared by the cooperating jurisdictions that can serve as a central command for emergency activity in the region. Design and construction of such a facility and increased coordination of the local, state, and federal governments are critical to ensuring preparedness for such an event. Federal funding will be sought for the construction of an emergency response facility and additional resources required rendering the facility operational.

#### Proposal: Funding for Hazardous Materials Clean Up at DeWitt Center

**Problem:** The DeWitt Center was constructed in 1943 as a military hospital during World War II. Construction practices at that time included the use of materials such as asbestos and lead paint, and utilized underground tanks for heating and fuel oil. The DeWitt property is now owned by the County and has served as a critical resource for County agencies for many years. The property's redevelopment potential to house government, commercial, and light industrial activity is promising. However, extensive renovation activity, including hazardous material cleanup of asbestos and lead paint, would be required before successful redevelopment could be undertaken. Federal assistance would initially be used to abate and or remediate, in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements, the hazardous materials currently on site.

#### Placer County 2003 Legislative/Regulatory Platform

**Proposal:** Increase Advocacy Efforts Related to Community Development/ Rural Housing Seek to amend federal statutes related to allocation of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and rural housing programs to reflect the unique characteristics in Placer County. Initiate action with relevant federal agencies to ease restrictions that hinder efforts to meet the demands for employee housing and affordable housing goals, in general.

**Problem:** Various federal and state statutes, and implementation policies, inhibit the ability of Placer County to maximize the use of monies designated to expand affordable housing in rural areas due to the unique circumstances that exist in Lake Tahoe, by virtue of it being a bi-state, multi-jurisdictional resort area. These statutes and policies relative to implementation of CDBG, Rural Housing monies create obstacles to providing employee and other affordable housing in Placer County, particularly in the Tahoe area.

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